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Is It Time To Revisit Your ***Ethics Program?***

Six Questions To Ask Now.

1. Has your board reviewed the provisions of the new “*whistleblower bounty*” program? (One of the new measures to enforce federal securities laws provided by the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protections Act.)
2. Do your directors know the definition of an effective ethics and compliance program – as defined by the Federal Sentencing Guidelines?
3. Are your directors and senior managers familiar with your ethics policy? When was it last reviewed?
4. What is your “hotline” reporting procedure? What are the boundaries for immediate notification to the chair of the board or audit committee?
5. Do you document board review of your company’s ethics program?
6. When is the last time your management team and the directors received ethics training?

The role of the board of directors has morphed from “decorative” to “watch-dog/overseer” and “sounding board for the CEO.” In recognition of this evolution, and the heightened public interest in good corporate governance, *boards are asking more meaningful questions*. Pose these questions at your next board meeting – the list is intended to stimulate discussion. Check www.governancesolutionsgroup.com for a new list each month.

Some of the questions are easy to answer and will allow you to validate your belief that your board is operating within the scope of “governance best practices.” However, good governance is more than checking a “good governance box” so that the board keeps out of trouble and out of the spotlight. Good governance is about examining how the board is actually functioning and about making meaningful changes to improve your board’s effectiveness, engagement, efficiency and accountability. If your board could benefit from a dose of independent advice concerning how to establish or modify your board’s governance practices, structure your board or revitalize your board, call Denise Kuprionis at The Governance Solutions Group.



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“Good governance is part of every good business solution.” Mary Denise Kuprionis